

City Manager's Neighborhoods Advisory Group

Report by Lynne Richard

January 10, 2008

Joe Gray:

Next Monday City Council workshop will discuss MSP negotiations

Upcoming Council meeting will feature first reading of CSO bond -\$16M

(mostly off-peninsula)

CIP budget is \$30M, including \$2M for Library renovations, \$2M for Regional Crime Lab

City budget this year will be difficult due to school finance problems, reduced revenue due to construction projects not happening.

Good news that FEMA is a source of revenue for 08.

Winter operations costs are high. Shoveling ordinance much discussed- city has issued 300 notices resulting in 30 fines to multi-unit apartments and commercial buildings.

Program using prisoners to shovel bus stops (700 school bus stops) and Metro stops.
An extra Metro bus will transport prisoners.

Predict 2 to 2.5M revenue shortfall on the municipal side, there will be no drawdown of Fund.

CIP- approved March or April, Bonds floated in November.

Often, for sidewalk and roads projects, the existing list is presented to the appropriate Councilor, who can recommend other or additional projects.

Mayor Suslovic:

Issued an invitation for all neighborhood groups to invite him to at least one meeting. Contact Linda at ljp@portlandmaine.gov.

Mayor's call-in TV show will be taped on 1st Thu of each month, shown all Thursdays at 7pm.

Suggest topics, please.

Discussion of snow disposal into the bay. Mayor opined that environmental damage from extra transportation may offset damage caused by pollution to the bay. (I noted that road salt contains cyanide, and the combination with metals from brake lines and petroleum products makes a particularly toxic soup.)

Next meeting visitor will be Metro's GM Redlison (sp), to discuss new routes

Superintendent of Schools Jeanne Whynot Vickers

Made a few introductory comments, graciously accepted many compliments, and answered a few easy questions. Working on state mandated chart of accounts (contains more than 7,000 lines), which will simplify reporting to state.

Questions: better PR, task force to fix atrium at PHS, HS choice, etc.